
CAPITOL CONNECTION

A Weekly Update of News and Views
For Opinion Shapers and Policy Makers

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



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House Passes Massive Spending Bill for Fiscal Year 2009

The House this week passed an enormous \$410 billion spending bill for Fiscal Year 2009, which includes nine of the twelve appropriations bills that were not passed last year. This massive spending bill includes many questionable items, including the elimination of a successful school voucher program and reinstated funding for the United Nations Population Fund, an organization which supports coercive abortion and involuntary sterilization. In addition, the Omnibus also appropriates an additional \$50 million for Comparative Effectiveness Research, which was already funded at \$1.1 billion in the “stimulus”, and is essentially a place-holder for government-run and rationed health care. This spending bill is an increase of \$32 billion, or 8.3 percent, over Fiscal Year 2008 and represents the largest one-year hike in annual appropriated spending percentage since the Carter Administration. As American families and small businesses are making sacrifices and cutting their expenses, Congressman Miller believes firmly that it is time for Washington to do the same.

President Obama Sends Congress Largest Budget Proposal in History

While Congressional Democrats have spent nearly \$2 trillion over the past two weeks, this did not hinder President Obama from unveiling the biggest federal budget proposal in history on Thursday. The Administration’s budget proposal projects the federal budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2009 to be a massive \$1.75 trillion, which is the largest deficit as a portion of our economy since World War II. In addition, the budget blueprint increases the national debt by \$2.7 trillion this year to \$12.7 trillion. The budget proposal also includes \$1.4 trillion in tax increases over the next ten years, which will affect all Americans and small businesses and will prolong the current recession. The new plan includes a tax on carbon emissions, which will skyrocket the cost of energy and drive up the cost of everything from utility bills to grocery bills. On top of the tax hikes, the President’s budget proposes over the next decade a \$634 billion reserve fund to institute government-run healthcare, an increase of \$72 billion for discretionary spending, and an increase in entitlement spending by \$1 trillion. Although Congressman Miller is adamantly opposed to the Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal, he will continue to work in Congress to revitalize small business, rejuvenate our economy, and restore the American dream.

Congressman Miller Cosponsors English Language Bills

Congressman Miller recently cosponsored two bills recognizing English as our national language. The first bill, H.R. 997, requires that all official U.S. business, including publications, income tax forms, and informational materials, be printed in English. With hundreds of different languages spoken in the United States, Congressman Miller believes it is both impractical and inefficient for countless government documents to be translated into foreign languages at a substantial cost to hardworking American taxpayers. The second bill, H.R. 764, mandates that ballots for federal elections be printed in English. Under current law, more than 300 counties in 30 states must have bilingual voting materials available. Because individuals must learn and understand English in order to become citizens, Congressman Miller believes there is no reason that local governments should be required to provide ballots in any language other than English. He is proud to cosponsor these commonsense proposals and will continue to advocate for policies that ensure our country is unified under the English language.

Secret Ballot Protection Act Introduced in the House

This week, Congressman Miller joined over 100 of his colleagues in introducing the Secret Ballot Protection Act. This legislation will guarantee workers the continued right to a secret ballot election when determining whether to unionize a workplace. In an effort to boost union membership, it is expected that Democrat Leadership will soon reintroduce a bill that would allow unionization if only a simple majority of employees sign authorization cards stating their desire to be represented. This “card check” system strips workers of the right to choose freely and anonymously whether to unionize, while exposing them to harassment, intimidation, and pressure. As an alternative to this undemocratic proposal, the Secret Ballot Protection Act would prohibit recognition of a union formed without a secret ballot election and prevents unionization based solely on “card check”. Congressman Miller is proud to be an original cosponsor this important legislation and will continue working in Congress to protect workers from coercion and intimidation in the workplace.